

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Docket No. 911-011/PI-79
on its own motion, to establish)
Phase II enhanced wireless 911) ORDER REGARDING PHASE II
service implementation.) ENHANCED WIRELESS 911
) SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION
)
)
) Entered: August 30, 2005

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Pursuant to the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act ¹ (the Act), the Commission and its staff have been actively assisting public safety answering points (PSAPs) and wireless carriers with implementation of wireless E911. As the Commission has previously found, the safety of Nebraska's residents requires coordinated and expeditious implementation of Enhanced Wireless 911 across the state.

Implementation of enhanced wireless 911 service has been divided into Phase I and Phase II. Phase I generates a call-back number for each wireless call received by a PSAP and identifies the address of the cell tower. Phase II will provide a location for the caller within certain distance parameters set forth by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC.) However, in order to implement Phase II, PSAPs must meet certain technical requirements including having properly built map databases and hardware and software for processing data. In order to dispatch services to a precise location, the PSAP must have the ability to plot the latitude and longitude provided with the incoming call. The plotting of these coordinates requires a Geographical Information System (GIS) database including such information as centerline data.

During the 2005 legislative session, the Legislature enacted LR 143 to conduct an interim study regarding possible consolidation of public safety answering points (PSAPs) and other issues related to the statewide availability of enhanced 911 service, both landline and wireless. Pending the outcome of the study, the Commission was instructed to temporarily suspend any new applications for Phase I or Phase II implementation. The suspension was due, in part, to the fact that proceeding with equipment and software purchases for PSAPs which could be consolidated in the future is not fiscally responsible.

¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-442 et seq. (Reissue 2002).

Furthermore, consolidation of PSAPs would have a significant impact on issues related to call routing and networks.

Building the GIS data will not be affected by possible consolidation as it is a statewide endeavor and not dependent on the individual needs of PSAPs. The GIS data will be uniform throughout the state.

The Commission finds that development of proper GIS data and map databases or supplementation of existing map databases is necessary for Phase II services.

The Commission further finds that proceeding with the building of GIS data and map databases would minimize delays in Phase II implementation upon the completion of the Legislature's interim study without any risk of expending unnecessary resources as a result of possible consolidation.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the development of GIS mapping databases shall proceed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 30th day of August, 2005.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director